



U.S. AGAINST CHINA DEVELOPMENTS

Focus: GS-III Environment and Ecology, Prelims

Why in news?

- The US government launched one of its most strident attacks on China yet with secretary of state asking allies and world powers to use “more creative and assertive ways” to press Beijing to change its ways.
- This comes after China retaliated to U.S. demanding the closure of consulate in Houston by ordering US consulate in Sichuan province to shut its operation as a tit-for-tat move.

Details

China asking closure of Consulate

- The Ministry also made specific requirements on the ceasing of all operations and events by the Consulate General.
- The US’s Chengdu consulate is located close to the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).
- The shutting of it would make it more difficult for the US to monitor the situation in TAR.
- The US launched a unilateral provocation by abruptly demanding that China close its Consulate General in Houston, said Beijing as it blamed Washington for making the move.

US ups ante against China



'CHANGE CHINA OR IT WILL CHANGE US'

US Secretary of State's attack on Beijing was unprecedented in its tenor and laced with symbolism: the speech was made at a library in memory of Richard Nixon, the US president who normalised ties with China

THE BUILD-UP

Thursday's speech follows a series of confrontations between the countries:

ON CORONAVIRUS

US President Donald Trump has accused China of a lack of transparency about the virus, which first emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan. He regularly refers to it as the "China virus"

ON TRADE

The Donald Trump administration began increasing tariffs on imports from China, its largest trading partner, in 2018 as part of an ambitious plan to force Beijing to curb subsidies on its own industries

ON HONG KONG

China and the United States have clashed over pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, most recently Beijing's imposition of new security legislation on the former British colony

ON CHINESE TECHNOLOGY

Chinese firm Huawei was added to US Commerce Department's "entity list" last year amid accusations from Washington that it can spy on customers. US is also considering a ban on TikTok

A SHOT AT LEGACY?

- Pompeo made the remarks at the memorial for US president Richard Nixon.
- Nixon made a dramatic visit to China in 1972, the first US president to do since China went under Communist rule
- The visit paved the way for the two countries to establish diplomatic ties. China's Houston embassy, which is being shut this week, was the first to open
- According to Pompeo, Nixon was prophetic when he feared he had created a 'Frankenstein' by opening the world to the Communist party



General Secretary Xi is not destined to tyrannize inside and outside of China forever, unless we allow it

-Michael Pompeo, US secretary of state

- The U.S. Secretary of State drew on a significant cold war terminology and said China's military had become "stronger and more menacing" and the approach to Beijing should be "distrust and verify".
- The comments come at a time when Beijing's ties with Washington, as well as New Delhi, are at their worst in decades, and other countries – such as the UK and Australia – have expressed new concerns over threats emanating from China.
- The concerns are particularly those relating to how Chinese companies may be helping the government spy on people around the world and the way Beijing may be flexing its muscles in territorial disputes.
- It was Nixon's visit to China in 1970s, the first by an American president since the Communists took power, that upended a Cold War paradigm and paved the way for the normalisation of relations.
- The thaw was precipitated by a deterioration in China's ties with the Soviet Union.
- The U.S. secretary of state mentioned "a new grouping of like-minded nations - a new alliance of democracies" to change the way they deal with China, while he did not specify which these nations were (implying India could be included in the list).



Legacy IAS Academy